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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,615	07/17/2003	Hiroshi Oyama	116597	9663
25944	7590	09/20/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			PRICE, NATHAN E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2194		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/620,615	OYAMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nathan Price	2194

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/23/2007.

WILLIAM THOMSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to communications received 20 June 2007. Claims 1 – 14 are pending. Previous objections and rejections not included in this Office Action have been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 20 June 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive or are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. In response to Applicant's arguments regarding motivation to combine the references, the decision in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 82 USPQ2d 1385 (U.S. 2007), makes it clear that a specific teaching, suggestion or motivation recited from the prior art is not required to show that it is obvious to combine teachings. Appropriate analysis under Graham v. Deere was performed resulting in the motivation as asserted in the Office Action dated 18 April 2007.
4. See current rejections for further explanation regarding prior art rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield (US 6,308,225 B1) in view of Silberschatz (see PTO-892 mailed 20 March 2007 and 20 June 2007).

6. As to claim 1, Schofield teaches an interface method for a logical circuit comprising a logical operation element, comprising:

defining an interface, using a first interface definition language which is partly common to a second interface definition language directed to a software object, wherein the first interface definition language has means for defining a plurality of functions, each function having a function name and a function return value, and at least one function having at least one function argument [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 lines 12 - 32, 54 - 65; col. 5 lines 6 - 13; col. 8 lines 12 - 22];

providing at least means for inputting for identifying the function name defined by the first interface definition language for a server interface circuit in order to realize the interface among the means for inputting for identifying the function name defined by the first interface definition language, means for inputting and outputting the argument, and means for outputting the return value [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7; col. 8 lines 12 - 22];

determining whether the function is the at least one function having the at least one function argument [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7; col. 8 lines 12 - 22; col. 12 lines 6 - 43]; and

performing at least one of inputting the function argument, outputting the function argument and outputting the function return value [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7; col. 8 lines 12 - 22; col. 12 lines 6 - 43].

7. Schofield fails to specifically teach defining a hardware interface. However, Silberschatz teaches a server process interacting with a device for a client process [page 470 ¶ 1 – 3] and that objects include hardware objects [page 569 ¶ 1]. This results in the server process acting as an interface to the hardware. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to combine these teachings because both teach use of client-server systems and Silberschatz provides additional details about what can be represented as an object and how clients and other software can interface with various objects in a computer system.

8. As to claim 2, see the rejection of claim 1 for limitations not included in this rejection. Schofield teaches providing at least means for outputting for identifying the function name defined by the first interface definition language for a client interface circuit in order to realize the interface among the means for outputting for identifying the function name defined by the first interface definition language, means for inputting and

outputting the argument, and means for inputting the return value [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7; col. 8 lines 12 - 22].

9. As to claim 3, see the rejection of claims 1 and 2 for limitations not included in this rejection. Schofield teaches:

data being transferred from the means for outputting for identifying the function name of the client logical circuit to the means for inputting for identifying the function name of the server logical circuit [col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7],
the server logical circuit and the client logical circuit each having at least one of the means for outputting the return value and the means for inputting the return value, and data can be transferred from the means for outputting the return value to the means for inputting a return value [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7].

10. As to claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 – 12, see the rejection of claims 1 – 3.

11. As to claims 8 and 14, Schofield teaches the server logical circuit and the client logical circuit each having the means for inputting and outputting the argument and data being transferred between the means for inputting and outputting the argument of the server logical circuit and means for inputting and outputting the argument of the client logical circuit [col. 2 lines 45 - 65; col. 3 line 54 - col. 4 line 7].

12. As to claims 6 and 13, Schofield modified by Silberschatz teaches:

the client interface circuit has a connection terminal and a register

[Silberschatz: page 405 ¶ 2],

the connection terminal of the client interface is connected to the server interface circuit or a system bus [Schofield: Fig. 1; col. 5 lines 14 – 23], and

when the connection terminal of the client interface is connected to the server interface circuit, the device connected with the server interface circuit is drivable via the server interface circuit [Schofield: Fig. 1; col. 3 line 66 – col. 4 line 7; col. 5 lines 14 – 23], and

when the connection terminal of the client interface is connected to the system bus, a value of the register within the client interface can be read via a central processing device such that the central processing device can serve in the place of the device connected with the server interface circuit [Schofield: Fig. 1; col. 3 line 66 – col. 4 line 7; col. 5 lines 14 – 23] [Silberschatz: page 402 ¶ 6; page 405 ¶ 2].

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record on the P.T.O. 892 that has not been relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Careful consideration of the cited art is required prior to responding to this Office Action, see 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Price whose telephone number is (571) 272-4196. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 2:30pm, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on (571) 272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NP



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER